

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as provided in the following complete listing of the claims.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for controlling an exposure of an electronic camera, said camera being mounted on an electronic apparatus having a display screen and the camera being capable of setting a photographing direction to at least a forward direction or a rearward direction relative to the front of said display screen, said device comprising:

exposure detecting means for generating exposure detection information indicative of the average magnitude of said video signals of a photographed image based on video signals generated by the electronic camera;

exposure adjusting means for adjusting the exposure of the electronic camera based on said exposure detection information generated by said exposure detecting means;

first and second camera support means for rotating the electronic camera in a plane perpendicular to and in a plane that vertically extends from the display of the electronic apparatus;

photographing direction detecting means for outputting a corresponding direction detection signal when the photographing direction of the electronic camera is set to the rearward direction,

wherein said exposure detecting means logically divides one photographed image according to first and second patterns, and in the division by said first pattern, divides said photographed image into an upper area and a lower area to generate first exposure detection information relatively strongly reflecting the magnitude of said video signal corresponding to said lower area; and in the division by said second pattern, divides the photographed image into a central area and a peripheral area to generate second exposure detection information relatively strongly reflecting the magnitude of the video signal corresponding to said central area,

wherein said first and second camera support means is are respectively located on ~~at least one end~~ a first end and a second end of the electronic camera,

wherein said photographing direction detecting means is adjacent to said first camera support means,

said exposure adjusting means adjusts the exposure of the electronic camera on the basis of said first exposure detection information when said photographing direction detecting means outputs said direction detection signal,

wherein said exposure adjusting means adjusts the exposure of the electronic camera on the basis of said second exposure detection information when the photographing direction detecting means does not output a direction detection signal, which occurs when the photographing direction is rotated on said first and second camera support means in a range of θ_f corresponding to said forward direction,

wherein said photographing direction detecting means outputs the direction detection signal only when the photographing direction is rotated on said first and second camera support means in a range of θ_b corresponding to said rearward direction, and

wherein the total range of θ_f and θ_b is approximately 180 degrees, and the range of θ_f is approximately 60 degrees, such that the photographing direction is in the range of θ_b when it is about 60 degrees or more away from the front of said display screen.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said exposure detecting means includes: an area-integration circuit for integrating the corresponding video signals for each area obtained by dividing according to the first and second patterns; and weighting-adding means for multiplying integration results for the respective areas, which are outputted from said area-integration circuit, by weights for the areas, and adding respective products to set addition results as said first and second exposure detection information.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the upper area in the division by the first pattern is an upper area about 1/4 that of the photographed image.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the central area in the division by the second pattern has a substantially rectangular form, the height thereof is about 1/2 that of the photographed image, and the width thereof is about 1/3 that of the photographed image.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera includes a solid-state image sensing device as an image pickup device.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 5, where said solid-stage image sensing device includes a CCD or a CMOS sensor.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is a video camera or a digital still camera.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device according to Claim 5, wherein said exposure adjusting means controls an electronic shutter of the electronic camera to adjust the exposure.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a variable gain amplifier circuit which receives the video signal generated by the electronic camera as an input, and wherein said exposure adjusting means controls a gain of said variable gain amplifier circuit to adjust the exposure.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is built into the electronic apparatus.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic camera is detachable from the electronic apparatus.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic apparatus is a portable information terminal.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic apparatus is a personal computer or PDA.